



# Spark Gap

Vol. 38, Issue 7, July 2021 *MARC - Serving Central Indiana Communities for thirty-eight years*

## ***On Our MARC:***

This Saturday, July 17 at 8 am we will be holding our monthly MARC meeting at **New Hope Church**, 5307 W Fairview Rd Greenwood IN 46142 - on Fairview just west of Morgantown road. The audio portion of the meeting will also be carried on the Club's 2M repeater as we have in the past. Due to difficulty hitting the repeater directly from this location, we will cross-band repeat using our own HT radios on UHF to my vehicle in the parking lot of the church to relay our HT signals to the MARC 2M VHF repeater. If you plan to attend in person, **please bring an HT programmed for the Simplex frequency 445.875 MHz (no PL tone) to use when you speak at the meeting** so repeater only listeners can hear.

The guest speaker, **Tom Weber, KC9GMJ** will go before the business portion, will talk about his duties with the Lucas Oil Stadium Frequency Coordination committee. This committee checks on All frequencies being used for Colts games inside and outside the stadium. He will have slides so is not likely to transmit.

## **M.A.R.C. Annual Picnic**

Our MARC picnic is Saturday September 18 (the picnic is in lieu of a meeting, there is no meeting in September). The picnic is at the Case shelter, Independence Park on Morgantown Road, Greenwood. The Case Shelter is on your right as you come up the hill in Independence Park. The Case generally has four to six picnic tables, with a capacity of about 40. There are a couple sites next to the Case for parking, the rest are up the hill in the main lot. Parking in the grass is not permitted.

## Protecting Frequencies at Lucas Oil Stadium

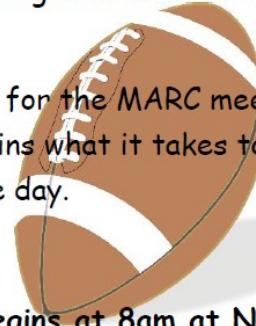


Have you ever attended a Colts football game at Lucas Oil Stadium and wondered what radio frequencies are used during the game? Keeping the facility interference free is the job of a small group of frequency coordinators like Greenwood resident Tom Weber, KC9GMJ.

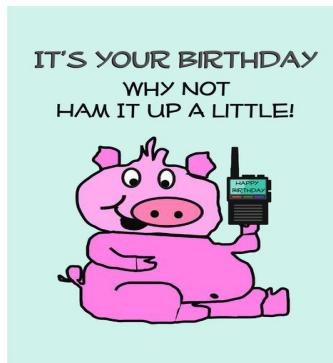
Tom and his crew monitor all frequencies being used during the game.

**Bottom Line:** No one will interfere with the radio signal being sent to each team's quarterback.

Join us July 17<sup>th</sup> for the MARC meeting as Tom Weber explains what it takes to keep Lucas Oil Stadium a radio interference free zone on game day.



MARC meeting begins at 8am at New Hope Church, 5307 W. Fairview Road.



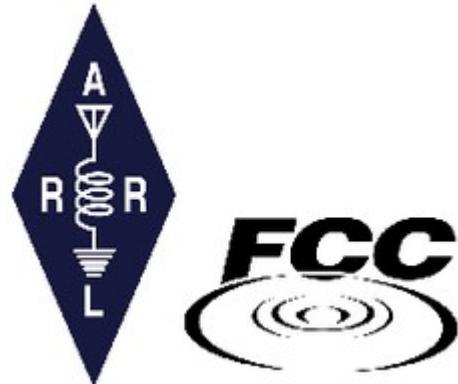
### *Birthdays for the month of July:*

*W1VYN - Vyn Popplewell  
KM6CRL - Bill Jackson  
KC9JLS - Jim Siever  
KD9FPO - John Dickerson  
KF9NF - Tom Daugherty*

## June 2021 Volunteer Monitor Program Report Released

The June 2021 activity report of the Volunteer Monitoring (VM) Program has been released. The VM Program is a joint initiative between ARRL and the FCC to enhance compliance in the Amateur Radio Service.

- The FCC was requested to review a vanity call sign application filed by a Georgia licensee because of an apparently false answer to the question regarding a felony conviction.
- A licensee in Massachusetts received an *Advisory Notice* concerning obscenity and harassment on 160 meters. The FCC will hold for review any renewal application filed by this licensee.
- A General-class licensee in San Antonio, Texas, received an *Advisory Notice* for operation in the Amateur Extra-class portion of the 20-meter band.
- Licensees in Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Georgia, and Virginia received *Advisory Notices* concerning failure to identify and other possible violations as part of a general audit of complaints about licensee conduct on 1.938, 3.860, 3.895, and 3.927 MHz.
- In May, Volunteer Monitors logged 1,514 hours on HF frequencies and 2,072 hours on VHF frequencies and above.



The Volunteer Monitor Program Administrator had one meeting with the FCC, and two cases were referred to the FCC for further action. One case involves a taxi company in Alaska operating on 2 meters. -- *Thanks to Volunteer Monitor Program Administrator Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH*

..... ARRL NEWS July 2021



A few weeks ago my wife and I took a road trip to Dayton Ohio to the National Air Museum at the Wright Patterson Air Force Base. We all saw lots of different types of aircraft used by our military as well as some very historic planes. Since our last visit there years ago there has been addition of another extremely large hanger for aircraft and displays. The fourth hanger now houses planes used by various Presidents. One of the planes on display was used by President Eisenhower, a 1953 Lockheed Constellation, the first plane to be called Air Force One. When touring the plane down a very tight hallway I notice something of interest to HAMs. Mounted into the wall in the area the press would ride in the plane was a Hallicrafters multi - band shortwave receiver. I had to take a picture of this radio and share it with you. I think it is a one of a kind made for Air Force One. There is no writing on it showing what model it is but doing some research I think it most likely is a version of the Hallicrafters model SX-62A. I am sure reception was good on that receiver at high altitudes. If you haven't been to Wright Pat in a while it is will worth the trip and plan on spending the entire day there. .... Bob N9SIU

## A gallant effort for FD 2021



A hand full of MARC members took a shot at putting the club into the 2021 ARRL Field Day record book. Tim Aldridge, WC9G racked up the most points on SSB while operating portable from his tent next to the skateboard park in Providence Park. His location and truck mounted antenna drew a lot of attention from skateboarding kids nearby. At least a dozen youngsters and grandparents stopped by to ask about amateur radio.

Inside the garage at the EOC radio room, Jim Williams, N9EJR, used the club's tri-fold picture board as a background for his newly designed club brochures.



A couple of visitors took advantage of the information. As club PIO, Jim sent out dozens of invitations to county officials and news outlets describing our weekend operation. Unfortunately, none of those people took the time to visit. We score bonus points if a county official stops by.





Next to the PIO table Jack, W8ISH operated on FT8 attempting to make contact with hundreds of digital mode stations. Inside Jim, N9EJR used his CW skills to capture a couple dozen code contacts.



To his right, using the FT 817, former club member Jason Tuchek, KC9KCM was racking up SSB contacts on 20 meters. By late afternoon, Jason and David Nienhuser, K0CMD re-purposed that radio for a GOTA (get on the air) source. Sunday morning Doug Corliss, K9DMX stopped by to log up more SSB contacts. Weekend total was just over 200 contacts. Total score with bonus points is still to come.

Working in the background, Chris Frederick, KQ9Y watched over the use of the radios and keep a close eye on SWR readings on the three wire antennas. Wilson Low, KD9FBC assisted as needed.



Ken Barr KD9ALA and wife Maryls KD9BHM checked in to offer support as did Jim Seiver, WU9H.

Thanks to Tim, WC9G for providing hamburgers, buns and chips. Our Field Day efforts may not win any awards but we sure had fun trying.

*-Photos and article by Jack W8ISH*

## INDY HAMFEST 2021

I attended the Indy Hamfest July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021 and had a great time. One of the things offered was the ARRL Forums. I attended the second forum at 1000, Carl, K9LA asked those in attendance, What would you like to discuss? There were various topics brought up and an important one was how to get more youth involved in amateur radio. Two younger gentleman present spoke up to say what might be the good for amateur radio. One of the youth was from a HAM family and was somewhat used to what amateur radio had to offer. His Mom and Dad were hams and it is part of their family. They live in Southern Indiana. A question was brought up on "How do we get more youth involved"? The boys responded social media needs to be used more than what it is right now for amateur radio. TicToc is very popular and could reach many younger people in introduce them to amateur radio. Social media needs to be utilized to reach the younger people.

Other topics discussed was more presence in your local area. Someone brought up that sometimes amateur radio topics get too technical and some YIs do not want this in amateur radio. There needs to be more fun topics for women and being less technical. The social aspect is very important and fun in amateur radio.

This forum was well attended and most everyone participated in the discussions.

The second Forum Riley Hollingsworth, K9ZDH the former FCC counsel retired now working for the ARRL was the featured speaker. Riley spoke to us about the current program through the FCC and ARRL he is managing. The Volunteer Monitor Program is for the FCC to enhance compliance among amateur radio stations. Riley has his volunteers monitoring the amateur frequencies to see if all are compliant to the rules set by the FCC. The monitors also will send notices that good amateur practice was observed as well as those that do not comply. There are less than 200 volunteers for this program.

Riley also stated that our society has changed in the last few years and has become more aggressive with some bad behavior. We all must conduct ourselves to the best we can be when on the air and be considerate to all stations we have contact with. Riley is on the air frequently and you might run into him during a net for a QSO.

The attendance for this forum was very good and the best in years. Riley also took questions from the audience and it was an very informative as well as enjoyable time.



Carl, K9LA



Riley, K9ZDH



Those in attendance

..... *Bob N9SIU*

## 2021 Indiana ARRL Hamfest Schedule

July 31

East Central Indiana Hamfest

Randolph County Fairgrounds

1885 S US Highway 27 - Winchester, IN

[\*\*https://sites.google.com/view/ecindianahamfest\*\*](https://sites.google.com/view/ecindianahamfest)

August 7

Elkhart East Hamfest

Norther Indiana Event Center

21565 Executive Parkway

Elkhart, IN

[\*\*https://elkharteasthamfest.com/\*\*](https://elkharteasthamfest.com/)

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August 14

Hendricks County Tailgate Fest

Avon United Methodist Church

6850 E. Highway 36 – Avon

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August 28

North Central Indiana Hamfest

Miami County 4-H Fairgrounds

1029 W. 200 North, Peru, Indiana

9am – 2pm

[\*\*http://www.nci-hamfest.net\*\*](http://www.nci-hamfest.net)

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September 11

Tippecanoe County Hamfest  
Tippecanoe County 4H Fairgrounds  
1406 Teal Road - Lafayette, IN  
8 AM - 2 PM

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October 2

**Hoosier Hills Ham Club Hamfest**

Lawrence Co. 4H Fairgrounds

11265 US Hwy 50 W – Bedford, IN

[\*\*http://www.w9qyq.org/pdf/2021\\_Hamfest\\_Flyer.pdf\*\*](http://www.w9qyq.org/pdf/2021_Hamfest_Flyer.pdf)

October 16

**Shelbyville Tailgate Hamfest**

Blue River Valley ARS

8 AM - 12 PM

Shelby Co Fairgrounds

500 Frank St. Shelbyville, IN

[\*\*http://www.brvars.com\*\*](http://www.brvars.com)

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**OCTOBER 23**

**Hamtober Fest**

7 AM - 12 PM

Lynnville Community Center

416 W ST RD IN-68 - Lynnville, IN

[\*\*http://www.w9og.net/hamtoberfest-hamfest-2021\*\*](http://www.w9og.net/hamtoberfest-hamfest-2021)

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**November 13 & 14**

**Fort Wayne Hamfest & Computer Expo**

**2021 - ARRL - Central Division Convention**

Allen County War Memorial Coliseum

4000 Parnell Ave – Fort Wayne

[\*\*http://www.fortwaynehamfest.com\*\*](http://www.fortwaynehamfest.com)

**November 27**

**Wabash Valley ARC - Turkey Fest**

8 am to 12 pm

Clay Co. Fairgrounds

6550 N SR IN 59 - Brazil, IN

[\*\*www.w9uuu.org/hamfest/turkeyfest\\_2021.pdf\*\*](http://www.w9uuu.org/hamfest/turkeyfest_2021.pdf)

# MID-STATE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The Mid-State Amateur Radio Club meets the THIRD SATURDAY of each month at the Johnson County REMC 750 International Drive Franklin, IN 46131.

See our website, [www.midstatehams.org](http://www.midstatehams.org), for maps on how to get to our meeting.

Everyone is welcome; you do not have to be a *HAM* to attend our meetings or a member of the club.

## W9MID Repeater:

146.835/  
146.235 MHz  
(151.4 Hz PL Tone)

## Club Officers:

President: Tim Aldridge - WC9G  
Vice President: Jacki Frederick – KI6QOG  
Secretary: Chris Read – W9OQ  
Treasurer: Chris Mazzarella – KC9VGQ  
Repeater Trustee - Chris Frederick – KQ9Y

## W9MID Repeater:

443.525/  
448.525 MHz  
(151.4 Hz PL Tone)

Weekly Net: Sunday evening 7:00 PM ARES/RACES members and ALL RADIO AMATEURS  
146.835/146.235 MHz (151.4 Hz PL Tone)

The Official Newsletter of the Mid-State Amateur Radio Club

P.O. Box 836  
Franklin, Indiana  
46131

Spark Gap Editor: Robert LaGrange N9SIU

*Please send your articles to my email: [n9siu@yahoo.com](mailto:n9siu@yahoo.com) no later than the 2nd week of the month.*



Thanks to the New Hope Church for the use of their building for meetings and testing